MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

Sixty-Second Anniversary

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Pilgrims' Rest Church,

ESCAMBIA COUNTY, ALA.,

Commencing September 20th, 1878.

SELMA:
ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.
1878.

MINUTES.

PILGRIMS' REST CHURCH, BREWTON, ESCAMBIA CO., }
September 20th, 1878. }

The BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met pursuant to adjournment with the Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church.

The Annual Sermon was preached by Eld. L. W. Duke, from Ephesians 2:10.

After a recess of an hour the delegates assembled in the church and were called to order by the Moderator, Elder W. G. Curry; and after singing, and prayer by Elder J. L. Byers from Elim Association, the Moderator announced the Association ready for business.

The Clerk of the Association being absent, on motion of Elder J. E. Bell, Y. M. Rabb was appointed clerk *pro tem.*

Brethren J. W. Locke, E. C. Milner, A. J. Robinson appointed to read the letters from the churches. Which were read and contents noted (see Tabular Statement); and names of delegates enrolled, viz:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Claiborne—John Thames, Thos. Bursey and Jas. Thames.
Salem—A King, C. Carter, L. A. Brown.
Zion—T. H. Farrar, L. W. Duke, J. L. Hurry, R. N. Weston and J. T. Newberry.
Monroeville—Jno. W. Leslie, T. J. Emmons and Thos. S. Wiggins.
Pleasant Ridge—Levy Goalsby.
Philadelphia—W. G. Curry.
Mar's Hill—Jas. Boon, Thos. Finklin and John Boon.
Pleasaut Hill—John Ross.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Bellville—James Straughn, T. Balard.
Pilgrims' Rest—J. S. Scott, E. P. Loveless and J. E. Deer.
Point Pleasant—L. Lowery.
Arkadelphia—Jas. Nored, Isaac Hines, A. H. Stokes & Jno. Amos.
Pensacola—I. N. Herrington, C. N. Wentworth and W.S. Brown.
Cedar Creek—J. M. Wood, W. C. Kirkland and Isaiah Partin.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Evergreen—Y. M. Rabb, G. R. Farnham and J. W. Locke.
Brushy Creek—H. H. Shell, C. L. Fails.
Old Town—Ingram Spence.
Georgiana—J. E. Bell, J. M. Fortune, E. C. Milner. L. Skipper
Sepulga—A. D. Caton.
Beulah—Jesse G. Baggett.
Bethel—Jacob A. Mercer.
Union—John Angle, S. Garner.
Midway—Jas. L. Eddings.

Elders T. M. Bailey and B. H. Crumpton were requested to act as tellers for the election of officers, and reported Bro. A. J. Robinson as Moderator; Y. M. Rabb, Clerk, and Thos. S. Wiggins, Treasurer.

The Moderator announced the Committee on Preaching, to-wit: E. C. Milner, James Straughn and the Pastor and Deacons of Pilgrims' Rest Church.

Letters and messengers from corresponding bodies were called for, and responded as follows:

Zion Association—S. W. Jones, J. L. Jones, W. H. Joiner and J. F. Jones.

Elim Association—Elder J. L. Byers, Brethren J. W. Stephenson, M. V. Hare, Wm. Edwards and W. C. Godwin.

Alabama Association—Elder B. H. Crumpton.

Cahaba Association—J. O. Bailey.

State Mission Board—T. M. Bailey, Corresponding Sect'y.

Pine Barren Association—Bro. Jno. Posey.

Request from the colored Brethren of the Colored Bethlehem Association to seats with us as hearers and learners granted.

Ministering Brethren not accredited to our body, invited to seats with us.

The Moderator announced the appointment of Standing Committees as follows:

On State of Religion—J. E. Bell, J. W. Leslie, A. King, F. Farrar.

Queries and Requests—J. W. Leslie, Jesse G. Baggett, I. Spence, Jas. L. Eddings.

Periodicals and Publications—Thos. S. Wiggins, T. J. Emmons, A. H. Stokes, J. W. Locke.

Correspondence—G. R. Farnham, E. C. Milner, C. A. Thames, J. E. Deer.

Finance—T. J. Emmous, J. S. Scott, J. W. Locke.

The Committee on Preaching reported for the evening, J. M. Fortune at the Church and B. H. Crumpton at the Academy.

The Committee on State Missions made their report which was received, laid on the table and 10 o'clock, to-morrow morning, made the special hour for the consideration of the same.

The Committee on Sunday Schools made their report, which was received and to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock, made the special hour for the consideration of the same.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to note all funds reported in the letters for Home Missions as intended for State Missionary Board unless otherwise instructed by the delegates from the churches sending up the funds.

On motion, and after prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey, the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, September 21st, 1878.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. L. Eddings.

Minutes read, corrected and adopted. The Moderator appointed Standing Committees as follows:

State Missions—L. W. Duke, J. W. Leslie, C. A. Thames, E. P. Loveless.

Foreign Missions—G. R. Farnham, J. M. Fortune, Thos. J. Emmons, Jas. Straughn.

Sabbath Schools—J. W. Locke, E. C. Milner, Jas. L. Eddings, J. E. Deer, Jas. Thames.

The special hour for the consideration of the report on State Missions having arrived, the report was taken up and fully discussed by Brethren J. E. Bell, L. W. Duke, G. R. Farnham, S. W. Jones, B. H. Crumpton and T. M. Bailey. Pending the adoption, the Association took a recess for one hour, for refreshments, after which the report was adopted. (Appendix A.)

The special hour for the report on Sunday Schools having passed, the report was called up and amended; after which the further consideration of the report was postponed until 9½ o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Elder J. E. Bell, Chm'n of Committee on Foreign Missions, made his report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix B.)

Pending the adoption of the report on Foreign Missions, a voluntary contributions was received for the Rome Chapel, amounting to $6.15.

Bro. Thos. S. Wiggins, Chm'n on Publications, made his report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix C.)

Bro. J. W. Leslie, Chm'n on Queries and Requests, made his report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix D.)

Bro. G. R. Farnham, Chm'n on Correspondence, made his report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix E.)

Elder J. E. Bell, Chm'n on State of Religion, made his report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix F.)

On motion, Bro. G. R. Farnham was appointed to discuss the subject of Sunday School report to-morrow morning, 9½ o'clock.

Bro. E. P. Loveless made a motion to amend the fifth article of the Constitution by striking out all after and including the word "Minutes," and insert after "Correct" Record of all the proceedings, and discharge such other duties as may pertain to his office,

Committee on Preaching, reported for to-night: Elder J. L. Byers at the Academy; Elder W. G. Curry at the Church; Elder J. M. Wood at Bro. Jacob Smith's. For to-morrow, Elder T. M. Bailey at 11 o'clock, on the subject of Missions.

Prayer by Bro. J. M. Fortune, and then the Association adjourned until 9½ o'clock, to-morrow morning.

SUNDAY MORNING, Sept. 22d, 1878.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Jas. L. Eddings. The special order was the Sunday School report. Bro. G. R. Farnham being entitled to the floor, proceeded to the discussion of the same. He was followed by Brethren W. S. Brown, J. L. Eddings, T. M. Bailey and others. Pending the adoption the hour appointed for the Missionary Sermon by Elder T. M. Bailey, having arrived, the Association took recess until 12½ o'clock.

After recess, the Sunday School report was adopted. (See Appen-

dix G.) And in compliance with the first resolution the following Committees were appointed :

1st. District—Thos. S. Wiggins, W. A. Locke, John Thames.

2d. District—E. P. Loveless, Jas. Straughn, John P. Watkins.

3d. District—I. Spence, Jas. M. Sims, J. W. Locke.

Elder J. E. Bell made a motion, that when this body adjourn, that it adjourn to meet on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September. On motion, the word Saturday was substituted for Friday, which substitute was carried, and the next Association will convene on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in September next.

Appointed correspondence as follows :

ToState Convention—Elders J. E. Bell, L. W. Duke, W. G. Curry, Bros. G. R. Farnham, J. W. Leslie, E. C. Milner.

Zion Association—Elders I. Spence, J. L. Eddings, J. E. Bell, Bros. A. J. Robinson, E. P. Loveless, J. W. Locke, E. C. Milner, J. E. Deer.

Pine Barren Association—Elders L. W. Duke, W. G. Curry, Bro. J. W. Leslie.

Alabama Association—Elder J. M. Fortune.

The Finance Committee made their report, which was received and adopted. (See Appendix H.)

On motion, Brethren G. R. Farnham, Y. M. Rabb and J. W. Locke, appointed Committee to draft order of business to govern this body and have the same printed in the minutes. Bro. G. R. Farnham offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the hearty and sincere thanks of the Association are hereby tendered to the good people of Brewton and vicinity, and to the Deacons of Pilgrims' Rest Church for their generous hospitality so kindly bestowed upon the members of this body, and thanks to the M. & M. R. R., for half-rate tickets to the Delegates.

The following resolution was offered by Elder J. E. Bell, and adopted.

Resolved, That we extend to that portion of our beloved country, now exposed to the great pestilence, Yellow Fever, our heartfelt Christian sympathy and commend that Christian charity and benevolence which has prompted such a universal response to the call for pecuniary aid for the relief of those suffering to the favorable consideration of this body.

The following resolution was offered by Elder I. Spence, and adopted :

Resolved, That the Clerk be, and is hereby authorized to retain Fifteen Dollars out of the Minute fund as compensation for his services and that the balance of the fund be expended in the publication and mailing of the Minutes.

On motion the Treasurer was instructed to turn over the funds for State and Foreign Missions to T. M. Bailey, and the Minute fund to the Clerk of the Association.

Bro. Thos. S. Wiggins, Treasurer, made his report, which was adopted. (See Appendix I.)

On motion of Bro. J. M. Fortune, the annual sermon of our next Association be preached at 7 o'clock p. m., instead of 11 a. m.

Elder J. M. Fortune was appointed to preach the next annual Sermon and Elder W. G. Curry, alternate.

On motion, the Association, after the thanks of the Moderator to the delegates for their co-operation in conducting the business that has come before the body and prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey, adjourned to meet with Georgiana Church, on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September next, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Y. M. RABB, Clerk. A. J. ROBINSON, Moderator.

APPENDIX A.

ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee to whom was referred the work of the "State Mission Board," beg leave to make the following report: At our State Convention last year, a movement was inaugurated, looking to the division of our State into religious districts, each of which was to have its own evangelist actively engaged in the work. Previously to this time, there had been but one evangelist for the whole State. His labors were signally blessed and remarkably successful, but it was patent to all, that the task was too onerous for one man. Through the blessings of God, upon the efforts of our "State Mission Board," a little less than one year ago, the projected plan was put into active operation, and seven evangelists entered upon the work in their respective districts. The report of our Corresponding Secretary at our recent State Convention shows the efficiency of the men selected, and the results of their labors, which are alike gratifying to our denominational pride and Christian spirit, but the work is only begun. "The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few," and there is yet much spiritual destitution within the limits of our beloved State. We have seen the system exemplified, and its favorable results in our own Association and we note with great pleasure and gratitude, its effects in cultivating a higher type of practical religion, and a more elevated sense of Christian duty. It has developed the weak places in our denominational enterprises, and shown us our lack of a proper conception of systematic benevolence. It has impressed us with a more accurate knowledge of our strength, a more earnest zeal to take possession of the inviting field within our grasp, and brought us back to a proper realization of our most sacred obligations to our fellowman and our God. In order that this great work may be thoroughly practical in its operation, uniform in its burdens and systematic in its management, we recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, to-wit:

Resolved, 1st. That each church in this Association be requested to ascertain on or before its regular conference next preceding the meeting of the State Convention, the amount it will give to the State Mission Board.

Resolved, 2d. That a statement of the amount so pledged, be forwarded by the delegates to the State Convention, and in the event none attend, by the clerk of the Church to the "Corresponding Secretary."

Resolved, 3d. That said pledges shall be collected before the next meeting of the Association, and sent to the Treasurer thereof, who shall pass the same to the credit of the respective churches, and forward the amounts so collected, to the Corresponding Secretary."

Resolved, 4th. That the delegates of this Association to the next State Convention be and they are are hereby instructed to urge the adoption of the plan set forth in these resolutions, by the State Convention, and thus secure conformity of action throughout the State. Respectfully submitted,

G. R. FARNHAM, Chm'n.

APPENDIX B.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

"The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth," Jew or Gentile. Its hearty reception is as needful to the well being of the soul, as food and raiment are for the body. Then how great the obligation upon us to send this glorious Gospel to those who have it not. It must go in the living ministry and written word. Therefore, the proper support of the ministry is the

great question of to-day. Every true Christian is as careful to provide for the regular ministry of the gospel to himself and family, as he is to provide them food and raiment. We feel that our Pastors, and Evangelist at home, must be supported. Then comes the question of this report. Shall our Missionaries to the lost heathen be less a subject of our prayers and regular contributions. The devout heart answers, no. The past success of foreign missions has demonstrated this fact; that just in proportion as the churches of christian lands have furnished the means of support, has God called out consecrated talent to go and preach to the heathen. God has and always will furnish proper men, as we furnish the means to support them. Then to pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the field, and give nothing to support them, is sacrilige. Our prayers and alms must go up together before God. We therefore recommend that, each member, of each church composing this Association, offer up at least one earnest prayer, accompanied with at least a nickle in cash for every month of the ensuing year for Foreigu Missions.

J. E. BELL, Chm'n.

APPENDIX C.

ON PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee on publications are much gratified at the success of our State paper, and the ability with which it is conducted. We heartily endorse the action of our last State Convention in transferring it to the hands of private individuals, The brethren should use their best endeavors in extending its circulation, thereby increasing its usefulness and influence as a denominational paper.

THOS. S. WIGGINS, Chm'n.

ADPENDIX D.

ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your Committee find a request from the Pensacola church to aid them to obtain a Pastor for their church. We cordially recommend their request to the favorable consideration of this body. Also request from Georgiana and Evergreen churches giving our body a cordial invitation to hold our next annual meeting with their respective churches. After consultation with the delegates from the two churches, Evergreen has consented for us to report in favor of granting the request of the Georgiana Church. Respectfully submitted,

JNO. W. LESLIE, Chm'n.

APPENDIX E.

ON CORRESPGNDENCE.

The Bethlehem Association to corresponding Associations sendeth Christian salutation :

Dear Brethren—We note with pleasure, that there has been some improvement in our spiritualal condition and Christian work. since the last meeting of our body. Our people are manifesting a more liberal disposition towards the mission work, and we earnestly pray that they will cultivate this spirit until every Christian shall feel the great importance of aiding this noble cause. We were gratified to receive Rev. T. M. Bailey, our Corresponding Secretary, and also Brethren B. H. Crumpton,——————————of the Alabama Association, and Brethren S. W. Jones, W. H. Joiner, J. L. Jones, and J. F. Jones, of the Zion Association, Elder J. L. Byers and Bro. M. V. Hare, J. W. Stephenson, Wm. Edwards, and W. C. Godwin from Elim Association, J. O. Bailey from Cahaba, Bro John Posey from Pinebarren Association, whom we gladly received and invited to seats with us to aid us in our deliberations. Respectfully submitted,

G. R. FARNHAM, Chm'n.

APPENDIX F.

STATE OF RELIGION.

From the letters of the churches, we learn that many of them are in a cold and languishing condition. Some have enjoyed precious revivals, and are prosperous and happy. We think that from a careful examination of the subject, it will be

found that those churches which are meeting every Lord's Day for the study of God's word and praise and prayer, are happy and prosperous ones.

J. E. BELL, Chm'n.

APPENDIX G.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT.

Your committee beg leave to report that the idea formally prevailing amongst our churches, that the Sunday School was only intended to teach children the Scriptures, we are rejoiced to say, is giving away, and that the work has taken higher grounds. Time will demonstrate generally, as it has proven in isolated cases, when tested, that the Sunday School work prospers best in the same spiritual atmosphere that is essential to the growth of the church This should encourage us not to stop short of organizing the whole church and the children of the membership for the purpose of studying God's revealed will to us every Sunday, that we may grow in grace and in a knowledge of Him who has redeemed us. The study of God's word by the church in concert is educational as well as instructive; that is, it draws out and develops as well as pours in and strengthens. It gives the church unity of sentiment as well as harmony of action. Sound Biblical knowledge gives power to churches and is at the foundation of true piety. From these as well as numerous other considerations, we would recommend to every church, within the bounds of our Association, not to stop the work at any half way station, but persevere until every member of your church, and as many of the congregation as you can get to unite with you, be induced to meet on every Sunday to study the Scripture. When this is done you are in a condition to carry out your great mission on earth. Until you do this you are failing to use all the means within your reach to reform the world. And for the furtherance of this great object, we would recommend the following resolutions:

1st. That the delegates of churches who have a Sunday School organization are requested to meet on Sunday at 9 o'clock, of each Association in a Sunday School convention.

2nd. That a committee of three members be appointed from each of the three districts of this Association to visit the churches in their respective districts for the purpose of encouraging those who may be engaged in the good work, and stimulate to action those who are neglecting this great privilege and duty, and report to the Sunday School convention of our next Association.

Y. M. RABB, Chm'n.

APPENDIX H.

FINANCE REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to report the following for the object designated:

CHURCHES.	Minute Fund.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Rome Chapel.	Ministerial Education.	CHURCHES.	Minute Fund.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Rome Chapel.	Ministerial Education.
Montgomery Hill,..	.....	.....	3 50	.....	.....	Bellville, ...	3 15	....	3 25	.....	.....
Little River, ...	.....	.....	6 9	.....	.....	Pleasant Hill,.....	1 25	.....	.....	.....	.... .
Zion, ...	3 00	.....	20 00	.....	5 00	Pensacola,.....	75	.....	10 00	.....	.....
Monroeville, ...	4 00	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Evergreen,.....	2 90	5 60	29 5.	1 00	10 00
Brooklyn, ...	1 85	.....	11 25	.....	.....	Georgeana, ...	1 60	.....	2 00	5 00	6 00
Salem,.....	2 30	.....	6 15	.....	.....	Bethany, ...	1 50	.....	12 00	.....	.....
Pleasant Ridge,.....	1 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	Bethel,.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cedar Creek, ...	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pilgrims' Rest,.....	2 65	.....	17 25	.....	.....
Arkadelphia,.....	2 60	.....	3 35	.....	.....	Union,.....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....
Beulah, ...	1 00	.....	3 5	.....	.....	New Hope,.....	1 00	.....	.....	...	.....
Sepulga,.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	Olive Branch, ...		.....	75	.....	.....
Claiborne,.....	2 00	1 45	7 50	.....	.....	Mount Carmel,.....	60	....	3 30	.....	.....
Old Town,.....	1 25	....	2 30	.....	...	Midway,.....	.....	.....	1 80	.....	.....
Brushy Creek.....	1 30	.....	3 50	.....	.....	Saturday's Colle'n,	.....	.....	.....	6 15	.....
Point Pleasant,.....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	Individual Pledges	.....	.....	6 2.	.....	.....
Mars Hill,.....	25	.....	10 40	.....	.....	Sabbath Collection,	.....	.....	13 20	.....	.....
Philadelphia,.....	2 00	.....	13 70	.....	5 0						

Total Minute fund	$ 43 30
Total amount Foreign Missions	7 05
Total amount State Missions	222 40
Total amount Rome Chapel	12 15
Total amount Ministerial Education	26 00
	$310 90

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. J EMMONS, Chm'n.

APPENDIX I.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Thos. S. Wiggins, Treasurer,
In account with Bethlehem Association, DR.

To amount received from Finance Committee,		$310 90
CR.		
By amount paid Clerk	$ 43 30	
By amount paid T. M. Baily for State Missions	222 40	
By " " " " Foreign "	7 05	
By " " " " Rome Chapel	12 15	
By " " J. M. Fortune for Educational fund	26 00—	$310 90

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. S. WIGGINS, Treasurer.

PLEDGES MADE FOR THE NEXT ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR FOR STATE MISSIONS.

	Cash.	Next As'n		Cash.	Next As'n
Monroeville Church,		$ 25 00	C. A. Thames		$ 5 00
Evergreen "	$26 40		A. D. Caton	2 00	
Georgiana "		25 00	J. A. Mercer		2 00
Claiborne "		25 00	Miss W. C. Swares		50
Zion "		25 00	Mrs. Flora Pittman		25
Pilgrims' Rest "		20 00	Miss Laura Downing		25
Philadelphia "		20 00	Mrs. T. Ballard	1 00	
Pensacola "		10 00	M. F. Johnson	50	
Salem "		10 00	Miss Nannie McIver	1 00	
Pleasant Ridge "		5 00	Mrs. J. A. Scott		1 00
Union "		5 00	" S. M. Deer		50
Beulah "		5 00	" C. E. Coleman	50	
Mr. John Ross		5 00	" Isabella Sowell		25
Elder Jacob Smith		5 00	E. E. Loveless	25	
James Straughn		5 00	Miss M. P. Rankin		25
Elder I. Spence		5 00	Alice Johnson		1 00
Dr. A. J. Robinson		5 00	Nannie Rankin		25
Belle Sawyer		25	F. B Jones	1 00	
David Smith		1 00	Cash collected	2 30	
J. A. McCall	25				
E T Whitmore	50		Total,	$36 75	$212 50
J. L. Jones	1 00		Grand Total,		$248 25

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Appoint Committee to Read Letters.
2. Names of Delegates enrolled.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
5. Admission of New Churches.
6. Recognize Messengers from Corresponding bodies.
7. Invitation to Ministers of the Gospel present not accredited to the body to seats with us.
8. Appointment of Committees to report during the session.
9. Reports of Committees appointed at the last session.
10. Appointment of Committees to report at the next session.
11. Report of Committees present session.
12. Motions and resolutions.
13. Miscellaneous business.
14. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
15. Treasurer's Report.
16. Disbursement of Funds on hand.

CONSTITUTION.

OF THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing their credentials shall be entitled to seats.

ART. II. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be merely an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concerns. It nevertheless claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, especially with those united in this Association.

ART. III. Every church in our union shall be entitled to delegates, and for every twenty-five (or fractional part) over fifty members an additional delegate. Through them shall be transmitted to every Annual Session of this Association a letter specifying the names of their messengers, number in fellowship, excommunicated, restored, deceased, licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel since the last session; also post office; Sabbath meetings, by whom supplied, amount paid pastor, and the amounts contributed for the different benevolent objects fostered by this body, and the number, average and attendance at Sabbath-schools.

ART. IV. New churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bringing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. V. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be elected by and of the members present, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep, correct record of all the proceedings and discharge such other duties as may pertain to his office.

Also a Treasurer shall be elected whose duty it shall be to secure all money belonging to the Association and disburse it as directed by the body, and present annually for insertion in the minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. VI. The Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session in proportion to the minute fund sent up by each individual church.

ART. VII. Every query sent by a church must be enclosed in her letter certifying that they have endeavored to solve the same but failed. Nor will it take action on any difficulties between churches unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew for settlement of personal difficulties, and have not been able to settle them. In such cases the Association shall take it under consideration, but the voice of the body shall be considered an advisory answer.

ART. VIII. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the Committee on Finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund and pay it over to the Treasurer.

ART. IX. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. X. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members.

RULES OF ORDER.

RULES OF ORDER FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. At every annual meeting of the Association, immediately after the delegates names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices until new ones are chosen.

3. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

4. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.

5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

6. Questions shall be distinctly put. Those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of contrary opinion no. If the Moderator doubts or division be called for, the delegates shall divide, those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats and afterwards those in the negative.

7. The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

8. In all cases of an election the Moderator may vote; on other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question provided he calls some other member to occupy the chair while he is speaking.

9. When any member is about to speak he shall rise from his seat and shall respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate.

10. If any member in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may call him to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain, and the Association shall, if appealed to decide on the case but without debate,

If there be no appeal the decision of the chair shall be submitted to: if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise he shall not proceed without leave of the Association.

11. When two or more members rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is first to speak.

12. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending in the case, he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until, every member choosing to speak has spoken.

13. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association for special reason excuse him.

14. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair, or being in writing it shall be handed to the Moderator and read alound before debate.

15. Every motion must be reduced to writing if the chair or any member desire it.

16. After a motion is stated by the Chair it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the body but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decission or amendment.

17. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained, but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit or to postpone indefinitely being decided shall again be allowed.

18. Motion to adjourn shall always be in order except the Association be engaged in voting.

19. Motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order except a member be speaking or the body engaged in voting.

20. On previous question there shall be no debate, all incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question and pending such motion, shall be decided whether on appeal or otherwise without debate.

21. The previous question shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question now be put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee if any upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

22. A motion for reconsideration may be made by any member voting with the majority on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions except a motion to adjourn.

23. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

24. Should any member of the Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the minutes as absent without leave.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICES.	CLERKS.	PASTORS.	Pastors Salary.	Baptised.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dismissed	Dead	Total	No Attending S. S.	Sabbath Meeting.
FIRST DISTRICT.													
Montgomery Hill	Montgomery Hill		Not Represented										
Little River	Mount Pleasant		" "										
Claiborne	Perdue Hill	J. M. Thompson	L. W. Duke		17	1	2	14	2	1	60	30	1st,
Pleasant Hill	" "	M. McCloud	W. A. Locke		3	10		1			22		
Salem	Monroeville	W. D. Fountain	J. L. Eddings		4	5			10	3	83	32	2d,
Monroeville	"	John DeLoach	W. G. Curry		2	1		7		1	78	20	2d,
Zion	"	W. D. McWilliams	J. McWilliams		3	2		1	1	2	124	22	1st,
Philadelphia	Kempville	Jno. D. Nettles	L. W. Duke		8	2	1	1	2	1	121		3d,
Mars Hill	Williams Station	Jas Boon	No Pastor								52		
Pleasant Ridge	Monroeville	J. L. Smith	W. A. Locke			1					32	31	4th.
SECOND DISTRICT.													
Bethany	Burnt Corn	J. P. Watkins	B. J. Skinner		5				2	1	45	12	
Bellville	Bellville	Jas. Straughn.	" "						1	3	97	25	
Arkadelphia	"	Jas. Nored	I. Spence	50 00	19	5	1		2		82	57	3d,
Catawba Springs	Pollard		Not Represented										
Pilgrims' Rest	Brewton	J B. Colley	J. E. Bell						3	2	63	23	
Pensacola	Pensacola, Fla	J. H. Harrington	No Pastor			8			2		32	30	
Breckenridge													
Olive Branch													
Cedar Creek	Castleberry	G W. Kerkland	J. M. Wood		4	7		2	4		37		3d,
Point Pleasant	Brewton	R. Steele	Jacob Smith							1	28		3d,
Ramah	Burnt Corn	Silus Talbert	J. L Eddings		4	3	1		13	1	85	20	4th,
THIRD DISTRICT.													
Evergreen	Evergreen	G R. Farnham	J. E. Bell	200 00	5	6		1	2	2	64	82	
New Hope	Jackson's Store	J. R. Cook	No Pastor		2				6	1	30		
New Prospect	Georgeana		Not Represented										
Old Town	Evergreen	J. S. Murphy	A. Jay		16	3	2	3	5	2	87		4th,
Union	Garland	L Garner	J. H Higdon		2	3				3	45		
Brushy Creek	Georgiana	J. W. Jarnigan	S. Moor		11	2	1	10	6	1	44		1st,
Brooklyn	Brooklyn	J. M. Robinson	P. L. Moseley					2	2		43		3d,
Georgeana	Georgeana	T. J. Vinson	J. E. Bill		9	4		2	10	1	105	60	2&4
Sepulga	Evergreen	J. P. Pernell	No Pastor						2		38		1st,
Beulah	Jayvilla	J. G. Baggett	A. Jay			1			2	1	34		
Bethel	Georgeana	Jas. A. Riley	Geo. Mize				1		1		36	38	
Midway	Cokerville	Tom Harden	Not Represented								90		
Damascus	Brooklyn		" "										
Antioch			" "								81		
Mt. Carmel			" "								61		
TOTAL					114	64	9	44	77	28	1 795	462	